

TOP SECRET
SECURITY INFORMATION

114.2

116

Number 3.

2 November 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR: []

SUBJECT: Conversation with Department of State on
1 November 1951 - Current Status of BGFIEND

1. Since the last discussion of the BGFIEND operation with interested officials in the Department of State on 25 October, the following information has been received:

INFILTRATION

A Radio Tirana broadcast on 24 October 1951, monitored by FBIS, announced the "annihilation of 13...spies dropped by parachute on Albanian territory by United States Espionage Services." All seven men named on the broadcast were members of OPC teams. It seems probable that the unnamed six were also OPC team members.

On 25 October 1951, Radio Tirana reported the "elimination" of seven spies infiltrated into Albania by the "British Intelligence Service." No mention was made of United States participation in the infiltration of these men, but it is known that three of them were members of an OSO team. No OPC team members were involved.

Radio Tirana reported on 27 October that 33 Yugoslav spies were captured or killed by State security forces. None of these men were OPC agents. These three reports detail the success that the Albanian government has had in repulsing attempted infiltrations.

At present, only two OPC teams are operative in Albania, and since W/T contact has not been made with either of these, their status is unknown.

POLICY

The following information has been received concerning British policy towards Albania:

- A. The British Foreign Office definitely favors a free and independent Albania, and has so advised the Department of State.
- B. The new British ambassador to Yugoslavia is being instructed to inform Tito of:
1. Britain's attitude towards Albania,
 2. A desire to know more about the objectives of the Prizren League, and
 3. If these objectives are compatible, some degree of co-operation may be desirable.

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
CLASSIFICATION
CHANGED TO
BY
OF 100-1-58
11-1-58
11-1-58
11-1-58

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET
SECURITY INFORMATION

- 2 -

C. The British feel that presentation of Anglo-American views should be made in a coordinated manner, and feel the NCFA should restrain from propaganda that would make later cooperation with the Prizren League impossible.

D. The British have informed the Italians on a service level of this; whereupon, the Italians expressed relief that ~~no~~ no partition of Albania is envisaged; further, they declared complete satisfaction if the problem is handled by the United States and Britain.

BGFIEND/VALUABLE discussions lead to the conclusion that a decision to mount a major operation must rest largely on three points:

- A. Yugoslav position of benevolent neutrality or active cooperation,
- B. Views of United States and British Joint Chiefs of Staff, and
- C. Estimate of whether Yugoslav position of benevolent neutrality is a sufficient factor to ensure success.

2. Please inform the Department of State of this information at your discretion.

[]

~~TOP SECRET~~